



Baystate
Health



University of
Massachusetts
UMASS. Medical School

PURCH Population & Community Health Clerkship at UMMS-Baystate

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Population & Community Health Clerkship

October 20 - November 2, 2021

Learning Objectives:

- Collect, synthesize, and explain relevant population-level data
- Identify the interprofessional team members who care for the population
- Explore ways organizations advocate for, and with, a population to improve social and structural determinants of health
- Apply knowledge toward meaningful service in a community

PCHC Requirements

- 2 week immersive experience
- Align with needs of community (CHNA, CHIP)
- Align with Longitudinal Community Health Education
- Student-friendly site as host
- Mini Service Project
- Advocacy *Pitch*
- Photo/Word/Phrase Journal
- Interprofessional *Collaboration*

Community - Provider Relationship

Through meaningful community engagement, students will:

- Recognize the community as a unit of care
- Learn culture, history and social systems of a community
- Establish partnerships based on mutual respect, trust and transparency
- Use community health data and the community voice to drive programs, policies and practice
- Implement clinician advocacy skills to address health equity

Teamwork

I LOVED having a pharmacy student on the team. I wish we got to work with more health professionals more often.

I believe inter-professional training is beneficial to all healthcare students because it creates a strong team approach.

Inter-professional collaboration is so important in the field of substance use disorder- we found that the harm reduction counselors are able to make a much stronger connection with the clients than doctors- thus teamwork will help improve a patient's care



Culture, Bias, and Privilege

We talked directly with community organizations and those affected most by systems. Very valuable conversations and perspective.

[PHC preceptors] encouraged conversation regarding these topics and we discussed them as a group multiple times after different experiences and lectures we had throughout the PHC.

Meetings [had] open-ended agendas, allowing us to discuss both the objectives of the project, as well as any additional thoughts that we had... We discussed to an extent bias, stereotype, and privilege. Though we had this opportunity, perhaps a focused discussion on these topics would have allowed us to go further into depth.

Advocacy

Really great opportunity to present to important people and community members and field their questions. Really rewarding and felt like we actually made a difference.

Through this experience, we worked with clinicians, researchers, pharmacists, police, and local community leaders. It was a fantastic way to collaborate to achieve a collective goal. I learned how important it is to gather perspectives from all levels of the community in order to fully understand populations.



Educational Value

A very enjoyable experience overall. Our [PHC preceptors] were both knowledgeable of the Springfield population and helpful in guiding our project. I gained valuable insights through this experience and would highly recommend it to students next year.

[Site] was a wonderful clerkship. I would highly recommend it as an experience to medical students for learning about an important community, the impact of social determinants, and inter-professionalism. I think that our leadership was exceptional. The clerkship they created was well-thought out and so clearly prioritised our learning but still maintained a flexibility to meet our interests and desires.

Student Reflection

“It was so *valuable* to learn about transportation challenges, to have the *opportunity* to ride the shuttles to really *get a sense for* just how challenging coordination of a huge geographic space is. It was important to *hear from riders, drivers and community agencies* the role transportation plays and the things that it can impact. Many of the things directly and indirectly impact health. Overall the experience that [QVCDC] provided was incredibly rich and I feel like I learned so much... The [Clerkship] was incredibly impactful and *will most definitely influence my future practice.*”



Student Reflection

Joining the PURCH program I was nervous to work so closely with doctors and medical students because I am a pharmacy student. By being with the medical students and the doctors I was worried I would not have a clue what was going on half of the time because my education has been very different. However, I was wrong. After working with [my preceptor] and these medical students I feel like an *important part of the team* and I feel as though my opinion and education is *valued by everyone*. This has been an eye opening inter-professional experience for me and has proven to me that within the medical field there is no longer a hierarchy, instead there is a *team* working together to achieve the same goal.



Quaboag Connector



Medical students study rural transportation as a social determinant of health

In late October, five medical students immersed themselves in learning about the link between transportation access and community health in a rural, high-poverty area. Second-year students in the [Population-Based Urban and Rural Community Health](#) program at UMass Medical School's Baystate campus had the opportunity to choose a two-week clerkship focusing on one of the [social determinants of health](#): social, economic, and environmental factors that affect health. Community partners in Springfield offered clerkships in food insecurity, veteran homelessness, and childcare, while the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation (QVDC) offered a rural transportation clerkship in Ware featuring the [Quaboag Connector](#). Long-time Connector supporter Michelle Holmgren, Public Affairs & Community Relations Specialist for Baystate's Eastern Region, connected QVDC to the clerkship opportunity.



Square One Mobile Food Pantry



As part of their medical school studies, students enrolled in the **UMASS Medical School PURCH Program** recently partnered with several community organizations to better understand the social determinants of health in urban and rural communities. Square One was fortunate enough to be selected for the study and hosted the students for two weeks, introducing them to the children and families in our programs and allowing them to experience the day-to-day happenings in our classrooms and Family Centers. In particular, the students focused on the impact of food insecurity on families in communities served by Square One. Following their time spent at Square One, they presented their findings to statewide health professionals and community leaders.

The **Population-based Urban and Rural Community Health (PURCH) Track** prepares medical students to practice successfully in the post-healthcare reform world by training them to manage the health of both individuals and populations. Students learn how to apply concepts of population health in diverse inpatient and outpatient clinical settings with largely underserved urban and rural communities.



PCHC Sites 2021

- Armbrook Village (Elder Care/Dementia Ed)
- BeHealthy ACO (Digital Divide)
- Baystate Health Pedi Trauma (Gun Violence)
- MLK Jr Family Services (Food Insecurity)
- Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance (SUD)
- Quaboag Valley CDC (Transportation Equity)
- ReGreen Springfield (Environmental Justice)
- Square One (Nutrition Education)
- Tapestry Health (Harm Reduction)
- Wellness on Wheels Bus (Prevention/Health Ed)

**Reactions?
Thoughts?
Questions?
*Thank you!!***

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